(ix) Promotion of multiple Health Insurance models.

(x) Promotion of partnership with private sector for achieving public Health goals.

(xi) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Community.

**HUBS of spurious drugs**

1349. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bhagirath Palace in Delhi followed by Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh and Alwar in Rajasthan are the hubs of spurious drugs' trade, worth crores of rupees;

(b) whether Government have ever raided these markets to assess the impact of this illegal trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have developed some inherent foolproof measures to control the ramification of this menace in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per feed back available from Drugs Control Department of Govt. of NCT, Delhi, Drugs Control Department, Govt. of U.P. and Drugs Controller, Rajasthan, the perception that Bhagirath Palace in Delhi, Aligarh in U.P. and Alwar in Rajasthan are the hubs of spurious drugs trade worth crores of rupees, is not based on fact. From the data available from different States it was observed that the samples of drugs declared spurious during last 3 years is in between 0.3% to 0.4% of the total samples tested. Thus, it cannot be said that the places under reference are main distribution centers for spurious drugs.

(b) and (c) As per information available from the Health & FW Deptt. of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, the officers of the Drugs Control Department of

Govt. of Delhi carry out routine inspection, special inspection and raids regularly at Bhagirath Palace, which is the wholesale market of drug in the capital. Drugs Inspectors of Govt. of India are some time associated in the inspection programmes in Bhagirath Palace. The assistance of Delhi Police is taken during the raid whenever necessary. Samples of drugs are taken at random to have a test check on the quality of drugs moving in the market. During the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 a total 720 special inspection/raids on complaints were carried out by the Drugs Inspectors of Govt. of NCT, Delhi. The details of samples of drugs taken from the Bhagirath Palace for test/analysis and results thereof are as under:

| Year | No. of Samples drawn | No. of test report received | No. of samples reported as Spurious |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 748 | 742 | 01 (0.13%) |
| 2003-04 | 420 | 351 | 01 (0.28%) |
| 2004-05 | 139 | 02 | Nil |

As per the information available from Drugs Controller, U.P., a spurious Ambistrin Injection, being labeled, were recovered during raid on 31/10/2003 at a house in Aligarh and one person was arrested, a case was registered under section 274, 275 I.P.C., 18/27 Drugs Act and section 78/79 Trade Mark Act. Prosecution has been filed in the court.

Regarding Alwar in Rajasthan, no such specific information has been received by the O/o DCG(I) from the State Drugs Controller, Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, it is the responsibility of State Governments through their respective Drug Control organizations to regulate manufacture and sale of drugs as well as to keep a surveillance over possible movement of spurious/counterfeit drugs.

Manufacture and sale of spurious/counterfeit durgs is primarily a clandestine activity. To this extent, it is difficult to detect the manufacture or movement of spurious drugs.

Trading in counterfeit products including drugs is reported world over. However, keeping in view the serious implications of spurious drugs on public health as well as the loss to genuine industry, the Govt. has taken various measures to combat this menace.

(i) Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Govts. to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs.

(ii) Capacity Building Project through World Bank assistance has been taken up to provide substantial assistance to State Govts. to upgrade drug testing facilities or to establish new drug testing laboratories.

It is expected to increase the number of samples tested in the country from about 36,000 samples to 1,00,000 samples per year and to reduce the reporting time to less than a month as against the present period from 3 to 6 months.

(iii) Specific training programme for regulatory officials of State Govts. on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions etc. has been conducted with the assistance of FDA, Maharashtra. This activity is proposed to be continued.

(iv) In order to ensure efficient information exchange between drug regulatory officers in the country, in respect of licensing, sampling, prosecution, etc., a countrywide computer networking project has been undertaken by the Central Govt. This will enable the Central Govt. to regularly monitor the enforcement activities and recommend corrective measures.

(v) Pharma industry and trade has been motivated to fight menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. No. of cases could be successfully detected through the initiative taken by Pharma industry involving hiring of retired intelligence officers.

(vi) The recommendation of Mashelkar Committee which was constituted by the Government in 2003, to examine all aspects relating to the drug regulatory system in the country including the problem of spurious/sub-standard drugs, are being followed for necessary change in legislation as well as improvement of enforcement activites.

(vii) A Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005, has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May, 2005 to amend the said act to proved stricter penalties to the offenders including a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 100,000/-. It further proposed to make the offence non-billable, cognizable and to provide for designated courts for speedy trial of the cases.

The proposed amendments will make the law deterrent to the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The involvement of enforcing agencies like Police will help in speedy investigation to book the culprits and in controlling anti-social elements in such activities.

**Banning of tobacco advertisements, etc.**

1350. SHRI R. KAMRAJ:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to ban smoking scenes in films and television serials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to introduce a total ban on tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government has prohibited person or character in cinema and television programmes displaying tobacco products or its use *vide* notification published on 31st May 2005 which will come into effect from 2nd October 2005. In cases of cinema and television programmes produced prior to this date having scenes with smoking situations and use of other forms of tobacco, it shall be mandatory to place a health warning as a prominent scroll at the bottom of the television or cinema screen.